

NOVEMBER 1961

MAGAZINE OF THE



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

PRICE 6d

# SPASTICS NEWS



# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY CENTRES

## NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.  
Headmaster:  
H. B. Davies, Esq., M.B.E., B.Sc.(Econ.).  
Chairman of the Board of Governors:  
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.  
Secondary Modern and Grammar Education for Spastics of 11 years and over.  
Accommodation 66.

### THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentrych, Nr. Cardiff.  
Telephone: Pentrych 397.  
Headmistress:  
Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.  
Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.  
Accommodation 49.

### THE WILFRED PICKLES' SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington,  
Nr. Stamford.  
Telephone: Duddington 212.  
Headmaster:  
R. A. Pedder, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Eric Smith, Esq.  
Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.  
Accommodation: 60, 12 Day Pupils.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Holmrook 242.  
Headmaster:  
A. Lubran, Esq., M.R.S.T., A.A.O.T.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
J. D. Herd, Esq.  
Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.  
Accommodation: 34.

### HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.  
Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.  
Assessment Centre for Spastic children between 5 and 13 years.  
Accommodation: 24.

### DARESBURY HALL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.  
Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
George Evans, Esq.  
Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged from 16 to 35 years.  
Accommodation: 26.

### COOMBE FARM RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.  
Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
R. Meek, Esq.  
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 41.

### THE "SHERRARDS" TRAINING CENTRE

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2125.  
Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
The Hon. Lady Bowes Lyon.  
Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.  
Accommodation: 31.

### PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.  
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.  
Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 25 to 40 years. Accommodation: 31.

### THE GRANGE:

High Street, Kelvedon.  
Accommodates 13 Spastics over the age of 40 years.

### NATIONAL HOLIDAY HOTELS

#### ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Telephone: Southend 476351.  
Manageress: Miss M. Burden.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
H. F. Savage, Esq., J.P.  
Hotel for Spastics and accompanying relatives or friends. Accommodation: 19.  
Write to Manageress for bookings.

#### S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.  
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.  
Manager: F. E. Chappell, Esq.  
Chairman of the Management Committee:  
David Jacobs, Esq.  
Accommodation: 23.

## LOCAL CENTRES AND CLINICS

In close co-operation with Local Authorities and/or Hospital Management Committees, the following Groups provide or assist special schools and/or treatment centres:

Hull Pontefract  
Isle of Wight Portsmouth  
Northampton Reading  
Nottingham Southend-on-Sea  
Oxford Teeside

Working independently, the following Groups have set up special schools or treatment centres:

Birkenhead Leicester  
Bolton Plymouth  
Cheltenham Stockport

Operating entirely by voluntary contributions, the following Groups have treatment centres with or without nursery

classes. Some of these centres operate every day, others only part time:

Bedford	North Stafford (Stoke)
Bridgwater	Oldham
Chesterfield	Poole and Bournemouth
Croydon	Sale
Epping Forest	South West Middlesex
Gillingham	South West Surrey
Grimsby	Swansea
Ipswich	Urmston
Luton	Wycombe and District
Maidstone	York
North London	

The following Groups have, what might be termed, special occupation centres and, in some cases, treatment is available together with speech therapy:

Brighton  
Bristol  
Cardiff  
Crewe  
Dudley

Ilford  
Scunthorpe  
Southampton  
Southend

What might be termed Welfare Departments, mainly designed to assist older Spastics, are operated by the following:

Bradford  
Halifax  
N.W. London

Nottingham  
Widnes

Work centres, varying in scope, have been opened for adults by the following:

Bedford	Kingston-on-Thames
Croydon	N.W. Kent (Erith)
Central Middlesex	Stockport
Central Surrey	Swansea

Holiday homes are run by the following Groups:

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness, at Allonby, Maryport; Hull at Bridlington.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editor: Margaret Gill

Vol. VII No. 11	November 1961
For Your Diary	3
Growing Up	4
From the Mailbag	5
Country Wide	6
Castleford & District Spastics' Committee	9
News in Brief	10
Christmas Presents for all— Homeworkers' Scheme	12
What's New—Automatic Page Turner Feeding Chart	14
Wingfield Music Club	16
Women in Mind—One Parent to Another	18
Announcements, Exam. Results at Thomas Delarue School	19
Bristol Conference	20
Right Help for Spastics by Miss E. F. Townsend	20
Employment Corner	21
Crossword Puzzle No. 19	21
Group Alterations	22
Classified Advertisements	22
N.S.S. Regions	23

## FRONT COVER

### JEWELLED CHRISTMAS TREE

JUST 46 more shopping days to Christmas, and the sparkling tree on the front cover should give plenty of ideas for gifts.

The jewellery is made entirely by spastics and some of the marcasite brooches contain a gross of stones, all hand set.

Most of the pieces other than marcasite can be supplied in:—silver irise; crystal; peridot; sapphire, emerald, rose, topaz; aquamarine; amethyst; though all colours do *not* look equally well in all settings.

(For order form see page 13).

Cover jewellery, reading from the star to bottom left:

Star brooch, No. 228	crystal	5/6	Flower spray, No. 209	crystal	5/6
Flower spray, No. 301	crystal	5/6	Round brooch, No. 212	crystal	5/3

*Star to bottom right:*

Flower spray, No. 208	rose brilliants	4/-
Flower spray, No. 226	crystal	4/6
Round brooch, No. 230	crystal	5/6

*Star to centre base:*

Ear clip, No. 217	crystal	4/3
Swan brooch, No. 302	silver irise	8/9
Lizard brooch, No. 400	marcasite	8/6
Maple leaf ear clips, No. 459	marcasite	9/6
Square brooches, No. 221, moonstone and rose and crystal		5/-

Settings in silver irise are slightly more expensive

(Solution to October issue)

ACROSS		3. Often
1. Dispossessed		4. Samoa
8. Ghost		5. Safer
9. Flute		6. Elude
10. Evoke		7. Beat
12. Titania		11. Views
15. Reest		13. Irene
19. Bellows-mender		14. Ailed
20. Seeds		16. Ennui
23. Salient		17. Stern
27. Nacre		18. Smear
28. Uvula		20. Snug
29. Naive		21. Equip
30. Apple Blossom		22. Snail
DOWN		23. Scrub
1. Dight		24. Lento
2. Snout		25. Elias
		26. Therm

## FOR YOUR DIARY

MR. WILLIAM HARGREAVES, the Industrial Liaison Officer will be speaking at meetings in the following towns:

November 8th, 8 p.m. Manchester Spastics Society.

November 14th, 1 p.m. Jarrow—Rotary.

November 21st, 7 p.m. N.W. Surrey Group Meeting.

November 22nd. Preston & District Spastics Society Dinner and Dance.

November 30th, 5.30 p.m. University College Hospital Infant Welfare Department, Gower St., W.C.1.

DECEMBER 4th/9th . LEEDS AND YORKS WEEK.

MISS SHIRLEY KEENE, the Society's Lecturer, has the following engagements (these bookings are subject to alteration):

November 1st, 8 p.m. Royal Army Pay Corps Wives' Club, Nunsfield Camp, Taunton.

November 2nd. Mardon near Maidstone, Kent.

November 7th, 1 p.m. Rotary Club of Dulwich, Crown and Greyhound Hotel, 73 Dulwich Village, S.E. 21.  
7.45 p.m. Young Wives', Eridge.

November 8th, 3 p.m. Inner Wheel Club of Slough. Royal Hotel, Slough, Bucks.

November 9th, 3 p.m. Hatch Beauchamp Women's Institute. Hatch Beauchamp, near Taunton, Somerset.

November 14th, 2.30 p.m. Lavender Hill Congregational Church Friendship Club, Stormont Hall, off Lavender Hill, S.W.11.

7.30 p.m. Little Stonham Women's Institute, Magpie Café, Norwich Road, Stonham, near Stowmarket, Suffolk.

November 15th, 7.30 p.m. Parents' Assoc. The Cheyne Centre for Spastic Children, Cheyne Walk, S.W.1.

November 16th-17th. Sussex Exhibition, Eastbourne.

November 20th, 2.30 p.m. Inner Wheel of Dover (venue not known).

November 21st, 7.45 p.m. Wives' Club, R.A.F. Finningley, nr. Doncaster, Yorks.

November 28th, 8.15 p.m. Kingston and District Club, Nat. Fed. of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Wheatsheaf Hotel, Market Place, Kingston, Surrey.

November 30th, 11 a.m. Cheshire County Training College, Alsager, near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. (Held over from October.)

December 1st, 9.15 a.m. The Beverley School for Boys, Fanshawe Crescent, Dagenham, Essex.

7.45 p.m. Norwich Branch of the Institute of Physiotherapists. The West Norwich Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

December 4th, 7.30 p.m. Norwich Group's Annual Dinner Dance.

December 11th, 7.30 p.m. Standing Conference of Women's Organisations of Leeds (venue not known).

# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

Registered in accordance with the National Assistance  
Act, 1948

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LONDON, W.1.

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## GROWING UP

STEERING an even course through adolescence is a very difficult task for all young people, but for spastics it is an even greater problem. The sudden change from school life, where they are needed and often fussed over, to the adult world of employment, where there may be no immediate opening and where they feel unwanted, can be very disappointing indeed.

What are we doing to help these young people, many of whom are very disillusioned?

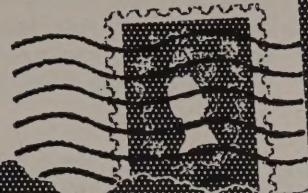
How about starting a social club? It is not only the more severely handicapped boys and girls who would welcome a club like this. Once given a lead many of them could help to plan and run the activities themselves.

The local church or scout hall may be just the place, and with a couple of hours of table tennis, billiards, ballroom dancing and less energetic games for those who prefer a quieter life—with of course a good cup of tea to wind up—you can help these young people to develop socially and learn to take their place in the world around them.

If your local group is not already doing something for this age group, a good way to start might be by getting your young people together for social activities once a week.

(Another view on the extra help which Groups and interested friends can give is expressed by Miss E. F. Townsend, Senior Social Worker, on page 20.)

## from the Mailbag



### FAIR EXCHANGE

Dear Editor,

People always love to see goods from another part of the country, and at bazaars it adds a flavour and attraction. Because of this, I think it would be an interesting experiment if each group were to send in for our forthcoming bazaar one gift typical of their area. We would return the compliment by sending gifts from Ilford and Romford.

As not all groups hold bazaars at the same time and there is usually some article to spare, or a "left-over", it might well prove a novel idea.

What do other readers think?

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) CECILY McCaul,  
Ilford, Romford & District  
Spastics Association,  
269 Mortlake Road,  
Ilford, Essex.

### ENGLISH HOSPITALITY

Dear Editor,

The efforts of your Society certainly helped to make my recent visit to England worthwhile and I feel that I learned an enormous amount which will be of great benefit to us here.

In both my reports back to my colleagues and also in the talk which I am giving to the parents of the children of this school, I have been able to tell them of the wonderful services, both social and educational as well as therapeutic, which I observed to be the order of the day in the N.S.S. centres which I visited.

I should like to compliment you on the efficient and courteous way in which you all handled my sundry queries, requests and itinerary. I must say England is a wonderful country and it is the people who make it so. Thank you once again for all your help and patience.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) F. MULLER,  
Occupational Therapist,  
Johannesburg School  
and Treatment Centre for  
C.P. Children (S.A.).

### NOT ALONE NOW

Dear Editor,

The regional officer, Mr. H. Knight, kindly called on us and gave us your

address. We are delighted to hear of and belong to the Society. Knowing we are not alone has made us feel much better.

Yours faithfully,  
W. MUHTENFIELD,  
Kinross Avenue,  
Leicester.

### COLWYN BAY HOLIDAY

Dear Editor,

I should like to pay tribute to all those who helped to give my son Dennis, aged 26, and eight other spastics such a wonderful holiday at Coed Emrys, the home of Miss Osborne.

The young people revelled in the summer sunshine and sampled dodgems and speed boats at the local playground, thoroughly enjoying themselves.

They were also entertained by the Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society at a tea, filmshow and sing-song.

My husband and I send our grateful thanks to all concerned and Dennis now lives for the days when he attends the centre in Bedford.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) A. DEAR,  
Stotfold, Beds.

### BOUQUET FOR THE "NEWS"

Dear Editor,

As the mother of a four-and-a-half-year-old daughter who is very handicapped, I am sure I shall find the advice and suggestions in the B.C.W.S. booklet *Outside the Treatment Room* very useful indeed.

May I also say how interesting and helpful my family and I find your magazine, which is sent to us each month from our local centre which my little girl attends daily. The articles and features give us real encour-

agement for the future as they open our eyes to the nation-wide progress and interest taken in spastics of all ages and handicaps.

We look forward to many years of continued pleasure from the SPASTICS NEWS.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Mrs.) JEAN A. TULLEY,  
Withdean, Brighton 6.

### "I CAN MANAGE" . . . WELL

Dear Editor,

Recently I returned from Woodlarks Camp, where I spent a very happy ten days' holiday. So many people seem to have read my story that the camp held a special party in my honour, and presented me with a signed card of congratulations. I am very pleased to tell you I am now living at a Cheshire Home in Maidstone.

Yours sincerely,  
DORA HOWELL,  
Mote House, Mote Park,  
Maidstone, Kent.

*Yours . . .  
for a better letter*

**'Harley' Bond**

a high quality

notepaper



# COUNTRY WIDE *From our roving reporter*



## STARS BUY CHRISTMAS CARDS

### Excited Gathering at S.O.S. Press Conference

IN GOOD time for Christmas a press conference to give publicity to the Christmas Cards was held in the committee room at 12 Park Crescent. The stars turned up in force to view the wide variety of cards specially designed for this year's market.

#### Interesting Displays

Display panels depicting the work that is being done at the Society's schools and centres were arranged around the room and in one corner, Mr. Virgo, a spastic who prints cards in his own home, gave a demonstration. A fascinated crowd clustered round to watch and all the stars gladly signed his autograph book.

A special display of the cards selected by Mr. F. H. K. Henrion had been set up to show the original paintings from which details used for the cards had been taken. It was most interesting to see from just where in the pictures these details had been chosen.

#### Christmas Spirit

Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director of the N.S.S., was delighted to welcome the stars and the press and encouraged them to buy.

"We are rather proud of the standard of the design which we have achieved," he said modestly, "and we all owe a great deal to Mr. Henrion and Miss Sheila Stratton."

He urged the company not to forget to support the seals which, together with the labels and the cards, reflected the spirit of Christmas, something which could not be said about the material usually produced at Christmas. The director was pleased to see the return to popularity of the traditional *Christmas* card; the message of Christmas was a serious one and a hopeful one—not the facetious announcements which pass for a greeting.

#### Important Source of Income

Dr. Stevens went on to talk of the recent gallup poll taken on behalf of the Society and the many projects in hand for further facilities for spastics, as well as the medical research which was progressing smoothly. All these activities required



Dr. C. P. Stevens and the stars admire the details selected from the Old Masters for this year's Christmas cards. From left to right: Sylvia Syms, Dr. C. P. Stevens, Vera Lynn, Adam Faith.



Mr. Virgo shows how Christmas cards are printed. Admiring group: Vera Lynn, Wilfred Pickles, Mrs. Pickles, Brian Rix, Roy Castle.

money and the need for financial support was as great as ever. The director made it quite clear that the Christmas card campaign is very important as a source of income, and that groups which participate obtain direct financial benefit.

### Parent Relief Scheme

Sale's *parent relief scheme* came into operation on October 1. The first of its kind in the country, the children can spend at least one night a week at the Lil Stockdale Centre. At present about five or six sleep there at one time, but eventually the number will be increased to ten. A fully trained nurse is on duty all night and as the warden and his wife sleep on the premises, extra help is available in the mornings. Asked how the scheme is progressing, Mrs. Stockdale enthusiastically replied, "It's going very very well indeed, and the children have settled down wonderfully well. We're all very happy about it." An encouraging sign for other groups thinking of starting a similar scheme.

### Beechfield Now Open

The new £9,000 centre at Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, was officially opened last month by "Mr. Pastry". *Beechfield* is the culmination of the strenuous efforts of the Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group.

*No, not playing for his pinta, Jimmy Edwards just gave a demonstration on the euphonium to the customers of the Broadway Hotel, Bournemouth, when he went along to knock down a penny pile for the N.S.S. Prof. Jimmy Edwards was in the area rehearsing for a symphony orchestral concert in aid of charity.*



Courtesy: *Evening Echo, Bournemouth*

### Annual Report 1961

Just published is this year's Annual Report of the National Spastics Society. Excellently produced with a striking front cover printed in scarlet, the report states the latest developments and achievements of the Society, and gives a clear picture of the structure of the organisation. It makes impressive reading!

### New British Medical Dictionary

A new medical dictionary has just been published under the general editorship of Sir Arthur Salisbury MacNalty. It has been designed as a standard British reference work for the use of doctors, surgeons, dentists, teachers, students, technicians and others associated with the profession. The publishers, The Caxton Publishing Co. Ltd., point out that



Courtesy: *North Western Evening Mail*

*Blooms as big as his face were admired by a young visitor to the thirteenth Ulverston and District Gardens and Allotments annual show. Dahlias and chrysanthemums were the two really outstanding features of the show, the proceeds of which were donated to the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society.*

revolutionary medical advances over the past 50 years have added copiously to the English language. Since many of these advances have been made by British scientists and members of the British medical profession, a British medical dictionary has long been needed.

### H.Q. Staff Drama Group

The Drama Group at H.Q. is going from strength to strength. They propose to enter a Tape Recording Competition sponsored by the *Reynolds News*, and are preparing a 15-minute extract from *The Linden Tree* by J. B. Priestley.

### Cut Price Book

At N.S.S. headquarters in Park Crescent is held a batch of 80 copies of the book *A Spastic Wins Through*, by K. R. A. Hart. The author, a spastic so severely handicapped that he could not walk or even stand until over seven years' old, managed nevertheless to qualify as a professional man and, at the age of 28, was appointed to the staff of *The Times* on which he has been for the last 27 years. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy should write to head office enclosing 3s. (original price 6s.).



Courtesy: *Leicester Evening Mail*

*Junior barrow boys set up their stall at Haddenham Road, Leicester, every year to raise money for spastics. In just two hours these youngsters had taken £5. Stall holders in Portobello Road, London, had better look to their laurels in a few years' time.*



### Karting Surprise for Birthday Boy

For Stephen Graves, a spastic from South Norwood, his tenth birthday brought a new and unusual experience. His father had arranged he should drive on a kart circuit in one of the latest "drive-it-yourself" karts.

Stephen was soon sitting behind the wheel of the new Rentakart, an extra strong and safe model recently introduced by Trokarts of Croydon, the largest kart manufacturers, to cater for Britain's sudden crop of racing drivers.

He listened to someone telling him how to operate the simple controls, put on a crash helmet, heard the engine roar into life as with a push start he was off—*on ten laps of a kart circuit!* How did he like it? "Great!" said Stephen.

### River 'Pirates'

An unusual money-raising effort was thought up by the Maidenhead Friends of Spastics. Dressed as pirates with their boats decorated with bunting, the members netted £50 one Sunday after an up-river cruise. As they passed other boats on the river they asked for donations, collecting with nets at the end of long poles. The raid, organised by the young chairman, Michael Caridia, was perfectly above board and had the blessing of the Thames Conservancy. Three more raids are planned, so watch out my hearties!

### Bedstead Race

A London to Coventry bedstead race was won by members of the Massey-Ferguson Apprentices Association. Together with teams of apprentices from Dunlop and Bristol Siddeley they had pushed a bed through the streets, starting in the early hours of Saturday morning. The money raised was in aid of spastics. Young people certainly do have ideas!



Courtesy: *Telegraph & Argus, Bradford*

Remember Sally the donkey? She was given to Hawksworth Hall and now pulls a cart which was bought and fitted out by local people.

In the picture Miss Jean Newhouse, junior house mother, leads Sally with a group of children.

### Gymkhanas

Many groups this autumn have benefited from the gymkhanas held in their areas and, judging by their success, it certainly seems that these events will become annual money spinners. Gymkhanas were held by the Colcot Pony Club in Cardiff, by Mrs. P. Hodges at Woodcote, Berkshire, by the Seaton Horse Show partly in aid of the Dame Hannah Rogers School, and by the West of Scotland Gymkhana.

### FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

With Christmas just around the corner now is the time to note in your diary the following events at our schools and centres:

#### Wilfred Pickles' School

Saturday, December 9, 2.30 p.m.  
Children's Christmas concert.  
Monday, December 11, 4.00 p.m.  
Children's Christmas party.  
Wednesday, December 13, 2.30 p.m.  
Carol service.

#### Irton Hall School

Friday, December 1.  
Christmas party for the children in the village hall at Santon Bridge.

#### Sherrards' Training Centre

Friday, December 15, Saturday, 16, Sunday, 17.  
Reunion of former trainees. Programme will include discussions, coach tours and on December 16 there will be a Christmas party.

#### Thomas Delarue School

Wednesday, December 13, 2.45 p.m.  
Festival of Carols and Nine Lessons.

(More celebration events and dates will be published in next month's issue).

Courtesy: *Bedfordshire Times*

Adult members of the Bedford Centre take part in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the extension to their occupational therapy department, one of the boys wielding the mallet as successfully as any civic dignitary. Mrs. A. E. Kidder, secretary of the centre, smiles happily and Mr. G. Breeds, the occupational therapist looks on in the background. Not pictured here, an enormous cake, made in the shape of a brick and presented by the builder, was enjoyed by the boys. Altogether a most constructive day!

# CASTLEFORD AND DISTRICT

## Spastics' Committee



*A young member presents a flower to the Mayor and Mayoress*

**W**E would not decry the wonderful work being done by large groups who erect buildings for their spastics, but for us this does not seem practicable. We do say, however, to all groups like ourselves, seek out and know your people, seek to brighten their lives, give them an interest if possible, tackle every problem as it comes along and use your Regional Officer."

These wise words, spoken by Mrs. Sophy Jourdain, Secretary to the Castleford & District Spastics' Committee, reflect the attitude of this great little group in Yorkshire. They have indeed not built any centre for their young people from bricks and mortar, but they have built up a willing and helpful corps of understanding members from whom those that are in need can seek advice, practical help and understanding.

Mrs. Sophy Jourdain tells the story.

On April 18, 1955, a meeting was held in the council chamber, Town Hall, Castleford, to consider the formation of a committee to assist spastics in Castleford.

Convened by Mrs. M. Wheeldon J.P., the meeting was attended by the chairman of the Castleford Urban District Council (now the Borough of Castleford), the town clerk Mr. E. Hutchinson, who became Secretary of the Committee for its first two years and saw it safely through its teething troubles, and representatives from religious, industrial and secular organisations in the town.

Mrs. Wheeldon became the first president and the group has been fortunate to retain her services in this capacity. Her zeal and efforts have never flagged and her devotion to all those who need her is well known in the area. To become not just a money-making committee but a body willing to take the hand of every

handicapped person, help him to a better life and ease the burden laid upon him and those who care for him, has been the aim of this group under her able chairmanship.

### Compiled a List

The first task of the committee members, many of whom still serve, was to make personal visits in the home. Reports were made back to monthly meetings, but the list of spastics was compiled slowly. Even in 1955 many parents were shy and some seemed ashamed of their children, but gradually confidence has grown stronger, until today people come naturally for help, knowing their problems will be considered with sympathy and understanding. For us it goes without saying that no appeal has ever been disregarded.

### Outside Contributors

Help came from various organisations, occasional flag days, piles of pennies knocked down, collecting boxes in shops and so forth. Some organisations requested talks which we arranged and these always brought results of some kind. The generous public responded.

To stimulate interest in our cause, we have held public meetings, arranged with the help of our Regional Officer. All our functions had the support of the mayor and other civic dignitaries.

Early in our history we accepted responsibility for the area of Normanton and today we include Allerton and Kippax, so our name is now Castleford and District Spastics' Committee.

### Annual Activities

A garden party for members to which members from other groups are invited, and a family Christmas party, help to bring everyone together. Parents and

children have been sent for a seaside holiday. For many of these it was their first glimpse of the sea. This year 17 people went by mini-bus to the Cumberland Coast for two weeks' holiday. Two children with their parents were sent to the East Coast for one week and three families who wished to make their own arrangements were helped by grants of money. These may seem small things, but they are often the bright spots for our people to look forward to, and our aim is surely to bring colour to their lives as well as help with practical needs.

### Not a Liability

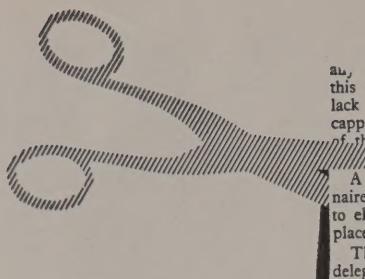
We no longer look upon all spastics as a liability on the community because we know that many can be taught to look after themselves and even become financially independent if the right treatment is given early enough.

One of our early cases was a girl declared to be in-educable. The mother was not convinced and after representations to the right authority she was given two hours' weekly education, it being stated that this was her capacity. Nevertheless after constant insistence from our committee the girl was admitted to a special school, where for the past three years or so she has been receiving full-time education.

### Indebted to the Regional Officer

At this point I should like to say how much we owe to Mr. Whyte, the North East Regional Officer of the N.S.S., for his whole-hearted support. There are times when every group needs the help and knowledge of an expert; after all voluntary committees are usually hard working people whose every day life is in very different spheres. We are fortunate to have as committee members, in

[Continued on page 15]



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### Norwich:

Rare, ancient and beautiful matchbox labels were among those being displayed at the annual exhibition of the Norwich Phillumenists Society, which opened at the Festival House, Norwich, in aid of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association.

(Edited from *Eastern Daily Press*.)

Miss Nansa—the word stands for Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association—was chosen at the annual dance held by the association at the Norwood Rooms in Norwich. It was announced that the dance and a draw had raised at least £150 towards the association's target of £20,000 for a centre for handicapped children in Norwich.

(Edited from *Eastern Evening News*.)

### Stafford:

The "locals" at a Stafford pub dug deep into their pockets recently to help the town's spastic children. A harvest festival service and auction in aid of the Stafford and District Spastic Association was held in the Prince of Wales, Weston Road, and the bar and smoke-room were packed. They were trying to raise funds for a centre in Stafford.

(Edited from *Staffordshire Advertiser*.)

### Yorkshire:

Two Guiseley children yesterday handed over £56 to Mr. J. D. Johnson, principal at Hawksworth Hall, and brought the total amount they have raised for the home to more than £150 in four years. The children are Janine Wormwell and Jane Gibson, both ten years' old.

(Edited from *Telegraph and Argus*.)

### Stockport:

Despite the treasurer's report that expenditure had exceeded income by £3,264 the Stockport East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society were told at their annual meeting in September that it had been a successful year. Making his first report the new general secretary, Mr. Mulligan, said the greatest single moneyspinner was the house-to-house collection, which, when completed, should raise as much as £500.

(Edited from *Stockport Advertiser*.)

### Bournemouth:

Those 5,000 balloons released last month in a race to aid funds of Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastic Society, travelled for thousands of miles. The greatest traveller was picked up by Juan Aparicio, about 100 miles south of Valencia, Spain. A profit on the race of £93 is reported.

(Edited from *Bournemouth Times & Directory*.)

### Leeds:

Talking of balloons, several entries in the recent Roundhay Park Gala Balloon race were blown to Scandinavia. One

## NEWS IN BRIEF

floated to Engelsviken in Norway, and another to Kiel, in Germany. The long-distance race, organised to raise £1,000 for Leeds and District Spastics Society, began on August 7 and about 30,000 hydrogen filled balloons were released.

(Edited from *Yorkshire Evening Post*.)

### East London:

After considerable voluntary effort in raising funds, the dream of the East London Spastic Society members has come true. They have bought a chalet at Leysdown, Isle of Sheppey, so that they can give the children a holiday by the sea. Many friends helped. The Weinbeau Furnishing Company, of Commercial Road, gave some of the furniture, and the Festival Inn, Poplar, have held raffles and collections, raising £60.

(Edited from *East London Advertiser*.)

### Portsmouth:

The Fawcett Inn, Southsea, are now the proud possessors of the *Evening News* Rose Bowl, as winners of the Portsmouth and District Spastics darts triples event. Money goes to helping the building fund for the sheltered works centre for Portsmouth area adult spastics, which is almost ready for opening. Since the Rose Bowl was given as the main trophy, entries have increased considerably. This year, 387 teams of three, with one reserve, entered and more came from outside Portsmouth than in previous years.

(Edited from *Hampshire Telegraph & Post*.)

### Bradford:

The Autumn Fayre held at Church House, Bradford, by the Bradford and District Spastics Society raised £251.

(Edited from *Yorkshire Evening Post*.)

### South Shields:

For the second year in succession, South Shields Spastic Children's Welfare Organisation held a carnival to provide funds for their centre in Wood Terrace. It was planned on a much grander scale and lasted for five days, and it is hoped to double last year's takings of £500. Last year's carnival, the first in the town since before the 1939-45 War, brought back memories of the fiestas of the 30's, which raised thousands of pounds for charity as well as providing a welcome moment of gaiety for men, women and children affected by the depression. This year South Shields Corporation Transport Department provided a double-deck bus in which spastic children in the town followed the carnival parade.

(Edited from *Shields Gazette*.)

Wallsend Disablement Advisory Committee decided at a recent meeting to send two members to a joint committee for North Tyne area, which is to press for sheltered workshops for spastics. It was reported that there are 14 spastics in the

Wallsend area who are unemployed, and who would be suitable for sheltered employment. In the North Shields area there are 18, and in the Newcastle area 68. Tynemouth, Wallsend, Whitley Bay, Newcastle and the county authorities are to be asked to help provide the workshop.

(Edited from *Shields Weekly News*.)

#### **Chesterfield:**

The Chesterfield and District Spastics Society held their garden party in their new centre, Pine Bank, for the first time and raised £60. Pine Bank now has 26 children on its books and a desperate need is for volunteers to look after the children in the mornings and afternoons.

(Edited from *Derbyshire Times*.)

#### **Scarborough:**

Passers by were surprised when a beer truck drew up in Nicholas Street, Scarborough, and a 36-gallon barrel was trundled into a bank. When broken open, the barrel, which had been used at Wallis's (Cayton Bay) holiday camp to collect money for Scarborough Lions Club Fund to give seaside holidays to spastic children, was found to contain more than 20,000 pennies weighing 460lb. and worth £82. The camp have also given a cheque for £1,062 to the Lions Club for the same fund, the money having been raised during the past ten weeks.

(Edited from *Northern Echo*.)

#### **Kelso:**

What would you say if a shilling bought a Mini-Minor? This happened to a Kelso housewife recently when she won top prize in a competition run in aid of the Border Spastics Association. Like you would have been, she was overjoyed and so were the spastics' association who made £400 from this and other fund raising efforts. The money is to go towards providing a day centre for adults and children.

(Edited from *Border Counties Chronicle & Mail*.)

#### **Middlesex:**

Amongst the causes of physical handicap in Middlesex children, cases of cerebral palsy form the biggest group. Much better results can be obtained if treatment for those with cerebral palsy is started at an early age. For these reasons, Middlesex County Council has established in connection with its day schools for the physically handicapped at Tottenham and at Heston, two units to which mothers can be referred for advice and children for treatment as soon as a diagnosis of cerebral palsy has been made. Physiotherapists are provided at these schools to give treatment under the direction of the visiting consultants.

(Edited from *Education*.)

#### **Salisbury:**

Cha, cha, cha cha cha. Clink, clink, clink clink clink—these sounds could be heard emitting from the Fisherton Working Men's Club, Salisbury, every Saturday evening as two of the members gave a dancing display to their delighted companions. To show their appreciation members threw down

coins. In six weeks £50 was raised, and is to be used for the spastics' school at Odstock Hospital.  
(Edited from *Salisbury Times*.)

#### **Welwyn Garden City:**

Members of the public made a date with the stars at the annual Michaelmas Fair held by the Hertfordshire Spastics Society. It was the first time the fair had been held in the main hall of the Mid-Herts College of Further Education, instead of under canvas on the Campus. Although less space was available, over 2,000 people visited the fair, and a total of £500 was raised. This, together with donations and proceeds from the Michaelmas draw will give the group a total of £700—£550 will go to funds when expenses are deducted.  
(Edited from *Welwyn Times*.)

#### **Whitehaven:**

A short film on Irton Hall was screened on Border Television, the 12th independent company to go into operation.  
(Edited from *Whitehaven News*.)

#### **Newquay:**

Promising young actress, Miss Jennifer Marriot, who has been playing leads with the Newquay Repertory Company for the summer season, visited the Tolcarne Hotel, Newquay, last month to receive a cheque for approximately £100 for the Beacon Club. Jennifer is the daughter of the N.S.S.'s Deputy Appeals Secretary, and we bet dad was pleased to receive the money! In fact, only a week before Wilfred Pickles visited the same hotel to collect £100. What a marvellous achievement!

#### **South East Surrey:**

Chessington Zoo, a favourite of young people of all ages, was chosen as the ideal spot for the South East Surrey Group's very first outing. The hard work involved was worth it the group agreed and would like to publicly deny that the recalcitrant members were fed to the lions!

THERE ARE NO  
CRISPS  
TO EQUAL  
SMITH'S  
FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR



## KEY TO PHOTOGRAPH

1. Knitted sweater from 15/-  
 2. Knitted gloves from 6/-  
 3. Hand block printed hand towel from 3/-  
 4. Knitted cap and scarf, made to order 14/11

5. Stools, made to order from 18/- to 30/-  
 6. Trays in various shapes and sizes from 9/6 to 27/-  
 7. Readi-cut rugs from 5 gns. according to size

8. Baskets from 12/- to 25/-  
 9. String bag from 1/6 to 4/11  
 10. Flowerpot holder from 7/6  
 11. Dressed doll 15/-  
 12. Nursery basket from 30/- to 35/- according to size  
 13. Leather wallets from 10/- to 17/6  
 14. Bread basket 8/-  
 15. Wastepaper basket from 8/-  
 16. Handwoven scarves, to order, from 20/- to 35/-  
 17. Flower holder to order, 10/-  
 18. Teapot and jug stand 8/-  
 19. Plastic and bead teapot stands from 3/- to 5/-  
 20. Leather purses from 5/6 to 9/-  
 21. Flowerpot holders from 3/- to 8/-  
 22. Toast rack 4/-  
 23. Cruet 7/11  
 24. Teapot stand in cane and plastic from 3/3 to 5/-  
 25. Earthenware flowerpot 4/-  
 26. Egg-cup set with cruet 10/-  
 27. Cocktail tray, with glasses, 12/-



# CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR ALL

## Homeworkers' Scheme Bigger than Ever this Year

A WIDE variety of articles suitable as Christmas presents, all made by spastic homeworkers in different parts of the country, has been gathered together at the N.S.S. headquarters by the Employment Department. A rush of orders is expected.

### Quality is the Keynote

Quality is the keynote and the wide range includes leather work, baskets of all shapes and sizes, embroidery, clothing and knitwear. One of the most popular lines is costume jewellery, of which there are 86 different designs available in delightful presentation bubble packs.

The latest in "new lines" is the making of Readicut rugs to order. Customers choose their rug designs and colours from catalogues provided. The order is then placed with the appropriate homeworker who makes the rugs specially for the customer at little above the cost of the raw material. (This is due to the generosity of the firm concerned who allow a good discount provided the rugs are made by home-bound spastics).

On the opposite page a broad selection of the goods available has been specially photographed for SPASTICS NEWS and an outline key is given below. When your choice is made, fill in and send the catalogue order form printed at the foot of the page. On receipt of the catalogues please order the goods promptly to save disappointment.

### Homeworkers' Scheme

Nearly 80 spastics—who because of their disabilities or the distance they live from the local work centres cannot augment their income as others are able to do—are now supplying goods regularly under this scheme. The goods are retained by the Employment Department and sent out for sale at exhibitions held by the groups or even, on special occasions, at national exhibitions.

The Employment Department tries to ensure that the homeworkers receive a reasonable return for the work they do, taking into special account the effort involved. **All homeworkers are paid as soon as possible after their work is received.**

TO THE EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT  
12 PARK CRESCENT, LONDON, W.1.

Would you please send me the following catalogue(s):

1. Rugs.
2. Costume Jewellery.
3. Leatherwork; basketwork and sundries.

NAME.....  
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

ADDRESS.....  
.....  
.....

### STOP PRESS :

We have just learned that the Eastern Regional Office have offered to undertake a pilot scheme for the sale of the jewellery. A large stock is now being accumulated from head office and jewellery workers are being organised to fulfil the large number of orders which have already come from the Eastern Region—well over £200 worth. The Employment Department are hopeful that other regions will welcome similar schemes.

\* \* \*

The Page that Keeps You Up-to-Date with the Latest in Scientific Development and Invention

## AUTOMATIC PAGE TURNER

### Makes for Independent Reading

FROM America comes a bright new invention for people who have difficulty in turning or are not able to turn pages of a book. *The Touch-Turner*, as it is called, has been specially designed to turn pages of pocket books and condensed magazines like *Readers Digest* as it was felt that most books are eventually published in the pocket editions.

Small and compact—less than one foot square—it weighs only 4 lbs. No special plugs for electricity sockets are needed because it make use of batteries.

This page turner is extremely easy to set up and use. Two adjustments change from one size to another and no clamps or gadgets are employed.

One of the advantages is said to be that it does not spoil the pages.

#### Operated by the Slightest Touch

A microswitch working at the slightest touch moves a "finger" across the bottom of the right-hand page. As the paper turns up and inwards a revolving transparent plastic disc catches it and flips it to the left. The switch can be operated by a foot or any muscle the person is capable of moving.

#### Took Five Years of Experiment

The inventor, Gordon Rice from New York, an engineer with an electrical and mechanical background, studied the question of page turning, in hospitals. Although Mr. Rice works at the Minneapolis-Honeywell development laboratory

and is used to working out tricky problems this was not a company job. It was a challenge he took up in his own time in his own workshop.

Soon after undertaking the challenge his original model was awarded the Gold Medal for function of Design at the Switzerland International Polio convention. Because of the subsequent publicity orders began pouring in but Mr. Rice wished to perfect his invention before putting it on the market.

Now after five years of experiment—he thought the job would be an easy one—Mr. Rice has produced a page-turner at a reasonable cost. To keep costs down the suppliers, P.B.S. Supply and Manufacturing Co., have made no allowance for wholesalers, distributors or extensive national advertisement, and have arrived at a price of £13 3s. 6d.

#### Obtainable from U.S.A.

To order, send remittance to the company at:

1321 Alhoa Street,  
Seattle 9,  
Washington, U.S.A.

They guarantee satisfaction or you get your money back if you return the merchandise. C.O.D. facilities are also available.



#### FEEDING THE SPASTIC CHILD

HOW the development of movements involved in the self-help activity of feeding can help the cerebral palsied child in the strengthening of other facilities, is vividly demonstrated in this chart (opposite) used at Daresbury Hall and Craig-y-Parc. It highlights the connection of feeding with the speech programme both at school and at home.

It is reproduced here by kind permission of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults Inc., U.S.A. Any school or centre wishing to have a copy of this poster in four colours (26in. by 28in.) would have to send 10s. 6d. to the Society at 2023 West Ogden Avenue, Chicago 12, Illinois. A black and white reproduction is also available. For individual use, however, we suggest cutting out this page from SPASTICS NEWS.



# THE WINGFIELD MUSIC CLUB

## An Experiment in Therapy

"**S**UCH sweet compulsion doth in music lie" that in under ten years, from an inconspicuous beginning, the Wingfield Music Club has grown into a thriving and increasingly useful centre for the musical training of handicapped children.

Much of the credit for this must go to the prime mover and organiser of the club, Mr. Herbert Lyon, who, after an accident some years ago was told that he would never be able to play the violin again. But perseverance at his instrument, plus medical treatment, restored to some extent at least the use of his hand; and Mr. Lyon, whom hospital treatment had brought into new and disturbing contact with people far more badly crippled than himself, began to feel that the musical therapy he had applied to himself with such good results could benefit others.

His first pupil was a one-armed little girl living near his home, whom he taught to play the cello, reversing the instrument for her use. She made good progress. Soon his reputation and dedication to his "hobby" grew and on Sunday mornings his house would be filled with music, as he and his friends helped the ever increasing number of handicapped children to learn a musical instrument. Sometimes, Mr. Lyon told me, even the bathroom became a practice room!

After some time, it became obvious that larger premises were needed, and the Wingfield Music Club moved to the hall of the Special School for Handicapped Children in Walthamstow (now known as Wingfield House, after the club) to hold its Monday evening meetings.

Although Mr. Lyon, his committee of ten and other helpers, give their services voluntarily, money was, of course, needed for instruments, equipment such as wheelchairs, transport, private professional tuition, and for his prize pupils scholarships at music schools. The Carnegie Trust came to the club's assistance by

providing a travel grant for out-of-town members, so enabling the club to become national. Musical instruments and other necessities have been donated by well-wishers in the district, and a regular corps of drivers provides free transport for those members of the club who cannot arrive under their own steam.

### The Rehearsal

On the evening I visited the club, there was a full-scale orchestral rehearsal of two short Richard Wagner pieces—"The Spinning Chorus" and "The Sailors Chorus" from "The Flying Dutchman". In two side shower and treatment rooms, some individual rehearsing of the pieces went on, until at last the older members of the group and the other helpers came in from school or work, and the orchestra sat down to play in earnest.

"Wake up," Mr. Lyon shouted, "Down up, down up," waving the silver mounted baton with which the orchestra had presented him after their last public concert. Gradually the discordant noise ceased, the tune became recognisable, and the orchestra achieved greater control over the pieces. It was evident, however, that some of the group were being "carried" by their more competent fellows and merely giving themselves and others an illusion of playing properly, and it was to these that Mr. Lyon issued a warning to concentrate; for if their playing was not up to standard, he would have to eliminate them from the orchestra during the arranged filming of these two pieces by I.T.V.

Alternately threatening and coaxing, Mr. Lyon wrung a good performance out of his group. His methods are unorthodox, but successful, and probably would not serve as a model to other musicians who wished to take up the same work, as they depend very much on his own personality and idiosyncratic attitudes.

**H**e is intent on giving his pupils self-esteem, and because he shows no respect or consideration for their disabilities, shouting at them for their errors and encouraging them when they make progress, he shows them that they need have no pity for them-

selves; that success will come to those who will to succeed.

### Careful Choice of Instrument

It is his refreshing policy to match the instrument to the disability; thus a child suffering from asthma or chronic bronchitis is given the oboe to play, as this demands that he learn control over breathing (one such child, now at the Trinity College of Music, no longer suffers from asthma); a child with little muscular control in hand or arm is encouraged to try the violin. Mr. Lyon believes that the experience of playing in an orchestra is an important one for the child, as he benefits from the group activity, stimulates his fellows, and achieves greater results than would be possible without this group therapy. He prefers to use the piano as a second instrument for most of his pupils, therefore, both for this, and economic reasons.

**"I never assess a child—that's the secret of my success,"** he told me, and he has always given full opportunities to even the unlikeliest children.

### Members of the Orchestra

Stephen, a bright-eyed spastic of 15, of whom a doctor told Mr. Lyon four years ago, "You'll never do anything with him," played the violin competently in the orchestra, and also, unexpectedly gave a piano solo during the tea interval. When he first came, he had walked leaning on his mother, or with tripod sticks. Now he could use ordinary sticks, and could even walk a few steps unaided. He had recently played a violin solo at a concert standing completely unsupported, having doubly to concentrate on the music and his stance. It is this sort of challenge to his pupils that Mr. Lyon loves to give. He has, too, the unusual gift of letting his protégés standing on their own feet, figuratively, when they have outgrown the help he can give them, and he is only too glad to pass them on to professional training when they are ready for it.

An example of this is a very pleasant young spastic girl of seventeen, Janet Cattier, who first came to the Wingfield Music Club about six years ago. She was

1958. Janet Cattier has a violin lesson with Herbert Lyon. Note the string fingers of both players

Courtesy: BIPS



unable to speak at that time, and had very little hand and arm, as well as mouth control. Mr. Lyon reminisced, "When she first came, the violin was anywhere except under her chin." She now plays both the violin and the piano and has passed several examinations of the Trinity College of Music, where she is a private exhibitioner on Saturdays. Mrs. Lyon, in addition, taught her typewriting for increased finger control to supplement her piano studies, and also helped her with her speech. Consequently, Janet now types 30 words a minute and has a clerical job in the City, *without being registered as a disabled person*. A charming, shy, neatly-dressed young woman, who has obviously worked very hard to overcome her disabilities, Janet, although tired and excited after her first day at this new job, played Beethoven's "Für Elise" very nicely on the piano during the interval. She told me afterwards how having a job in the City and seeing more people had increased her self-confidence, although she admitted that unless she had had a part-time job locally before, she would not have felt able to tackle the travelling, and this full-time job.

Very loyal, and grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Lyon and the group for their help, she hopes that he will found a second orchestra for more experienced handicapped players, so that they can continue to improve the standard of their own playing, while still giving support in the first orchestra to the younger or less competent members of the club.

Among the differently handicapped people whom I met and spoke with were two other spastics: one, a girl of about 16, played the violin with the bow fasten-

1961. Janet sits relaxed at the piano as she practices

Courtesy: London and Essex Guardian



ed by an elastic band to her right hand. The other, Barbara, the Transport Manager of the group, played the glockenspiel and the xylophone with the stick held between her gripless hands. You will meet Barbara in a "Women in Mind" feature in this magazine shortly.

#### Loyal Support

None of Mr. Lyon's achievements would have been possible without the constant loyalty and support of his fellow committee members, his wife, the parents, and all those who have given their services freely to the club. Among these, I was impressed by the St. John's Ambulance nurses, who have been coming without fail, every Monday evening, one for six years, regardless of other, more "attractive" possible engagements. They, like the caretaker of the school, and all others interested, except the one child who said, "No, I don't like music," were wholehearted in their enthusiasm for the work being done, and convinced of its value.

#### A Chain of Orchestras

It certainly seems that it would be worthwhile for spastics' centres throughout the country to investigate the possibility of starting similar musical groups and perhaps opening the way for the education and training of those children

it might at present seem impossible to reach or train through current media.

Music has a great reputation for healing—"Since naught so stockish, hard, or full of rage, But music for the time doth change his nature"—and musicians for generosity: many amateur musicians up and down the country who know that they will never be famous soloists might be very pleased to offer their knowledge and time in the service of handicapped children.

Possibly, when a chain of orchestras staffed by handicapped players exists in this country, the attitude of some organisations who are willing to give publicity to the handicap only, and not the achievement of the disabled, will no longer exist.

"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for"—a thought that has obviously motivated Mr. Lyon in his work with music and the handicapped, and it is one I would like to leave with you.

N.L.B.

NOTE: If any reader has a bassoon or other musical instrument which is no longer required the Wingfield Music Club would put them to good use.

## ONE PARENT TO ANOTHER

LEARNING to be the right kind of parents to these very demanding children inevitably means making mistakes, but the results are not always all bad. Our boy couldn't crawl, and so had no experience of movement unless we carried him. But when he was about two years' old we bought a frame on castors used for helping normal babies to walk. Its canvas saddle stopped the child from falling when he "flopped". After much practice he could move around in the frame, and while I think his posture in it might have been condemned by those more enlightened than we were, I've never been sorry he had it.

Eventually he walked outside in a larger adaptation of the walking frame—a luggage label with his name and address dangling from the top bar—and later still he rode a tricycle.

Many neighbours were horrified at the freedom he was allowed, but if these children feel they want to do a thing, and if the means by which they achieve it are not outrageous, I believe we have to shut our eyes to hazards and even to criticism.

Perhaps the mothers' angle is always one of severe frustration—probably because the mother spends the greater part of the day with the child and not being able to organise home life according to normal routine becomes depressed and inclined to look on the hopeless side of things. The male angle is usually more logical and down-to-earth. Father, "refreshed" after a day of toil, starts on the child where mother left off in despair.

Very much, of course, depends on the way we are made to begin with. Some of us are people who fight back in a difficult situation: others resign themselves too easily to things as they are. But as parents of spastic children we have definitely got to fight back, and if we are not that sort of person to begin with we must learn to be.

Taking a child weekly to a clinic, treating him at home and adapting home routine to fit his needs, and seeing small results for the effort year after year, lends itself to a mood of frustration. Then there are the setbacks. We found that our child made a little progress—perhaps would sit for a few seconds without toppling—and then, because he was cutting a tooth or suffering some other

*(For obvious reasons the author, mother of a spastic boy, does not wish her name to be printed. Her words, however, no doubt reflect the thoughts of many mothers in a similar position).*

minor inconvenience would go right back and not sit at all.

Patience is one of the foremost qualities we need, and if we are not fortunate enough to possess it naturally, is one of the most difficult to acquire. Probably we never really acquire it—we just develop a sort of "slow combustion" system which is not so spontaneously inflammable.

Next to patience, I believe the most important thing for us to have is a sense of humour. We do need to be able to laugh at ourselves occasionally so that we don't get "burnt up" with indignation. There are times when we could shake the cheerful acquaintance who stops to ask our child a question and won't wait for the slow reply; and times when we could do dreadful things to the overzealous inquirers who infer that they could make a much better job of things and would have "had that child walking long ago". Laughing at these encounters relieves a lot of nervous tension and makes life less grim.

As parents of spastic children I suppose it is natural for us to look to the future with some trepidation, but so too must the parents of children handicapped in others ways. It's difficult sometimes to get things in the right perspective; our own problems are so much with us and we perhaps lose sight of the many other problems which face parents of children handicapped in other ways.

The routine problems, of course, are legion—teaching the child to feed himself, coping with the spate of childhood ailments. Then there are the simple things like toileting and bathing.

I think that bathtime with a spastic child requires energy and effort far out of proportion to its hygienic benefits. The child sits on a stool to undress, and by the time the water is ready he has unfastened a button! Telling yourself firmly that he must do it himself, you busy yourself about something else. But

by that time the water is going cold and he is at the vest and pants stage, patience gives out: you swish the garments off him and plop him in the bath. Then you juggle with stiff arms, pick up a leg, and he topples backwards—which he thinks is a good joke but you can't appreciate it because your back is beginning to creak. Next you heave him out of the water and try to hold him and dry him at the same time. And as you deposit him back on the stool you wonder if a few germs here and there were really so important.

It isn't possible to generalise about spastic children, any more than about other children, but they nearly all seem to have one characteristic in common, and that is a pleasant disposition. Sometimes, in those more congenial moments which come to us all occasionally, I reflect that we have in our home a child with a pleasant disposition, sometimes entertaining, always affectionate, and with a quick sense of humour, and I ask myself what more can anyone ask. But in all of us there is that deep-seated desire to be as others are—to see our children as perfect as other children, and not to see either the child or ourselves set apart as different. Only a genius can bear to be different without being hurt.

One of the most difficult times is when the child becomes conscious of his handicap, and doesn't want to go amongst strangers because he feels conspicuous. This period is most difficult because we can do little or nothing to help. It is part of the problem which the child has to face for himself and get over as best he can, because in nearly every case the handicap must be accepted and lived with. All we can do is to try to make the child realise this and accept his limitations without being self-conscious.

Much too depends on the child's disposition. If he would normally have been a fighter—a determined sort of person who would achieve his ends by hook or crook—then I believe he'll fight his handicap much more seriously than if he would normally have been an easy-going child. We sometimes forget that our children have what could be called basic personalities—the disposition which would have been theirs if they had been

*(Continued at foot of opp. page)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EXAM-SUCCESES

#### at Thomas Delarue School

**Josephine Rowan**, Head Girl, passed in French and Bible Knowledge with Distinction at **Advance Level**. Josephine now has three Advanced Level subjects and six subjects at Ordinary Level. She is being registered as an external student at London University to read for a degree.

In the G.C.E. examinations at **Ordinary Level** the following, passes were obtained:—

Mathematics: **Geoffrey Walker, Glynn Vernon, Anthea Penfold, Robert Burrington.**

English Language: **Ann Holdham, Anthea Penfold.**

English Literature: **Ann Holdham, Patricia Jackson, June Maelzer.**

British and European History: **Manish Kohli, Patricia Jackson.**

In addition **Manish Kohli and Rosemary Dawson Shepherd** passed the Preliminary Associate examinations of the **Institute of Linguists** in French.

**Alan Brookes** passed **R.S.A. Stage 1** examination in English.

### HOLIDAYS FOR THE DISABLED

#### WEYMOUTH HOLIDAY CAMP

WEDNESDAY, 16th to 23rd MAY, 1962

Through the generosity of Mr. Pontin (of Pontin's Riviera Ltd.), we have had the offer of up to 200 beds, with full hotel facilities, for the week 16th to 23rd May, 1962, at The Riviera, Bowleaze Cove, Weymouth.

The cost for the week's holiday is £5 15s. Od.

The camp is situated 1½ miles from Weymouth, unrivalled in its position overlooking the beautiful Bay of Weymouth, the sea lapping its spacious grounds, unique among holiday centres, combining the service of the luxury hotel with the free and easy atmosphere of the holiday camp.

Open corridors run the entire length of each wing, connecting the 70 chalet-type bedrooms with the central block, which houses the public rooms, and allowing the maximum of sunshine and fresh air.

Each bedroom has washing facilities.

We hope to arrange coach excursions and entertainment.

The hotel will provide as full a pro-

gramme of entertainment as is possible so early in the season.

For further particulars and booking forms please get in touch with:—

**THE HON. SECRETARY, Holidays for the Disabled, 108b Priory Road, London, N.W.6.**

### Classified Ads.

### ACCOMMODATION

Middle-aged spastic lady, independent for all personal needs except moving from bed to chair would like room in happy home as paying guest, preferably Sussex or near the sea. Please reply to **Miss E. F. Townsend, Senior Social Worker to N.S.S.**

### ODD SHOES

Two ladies black "County Towners" (flat heeled casual shoes), sizes 6½ right and 3½ left. Original price 69/11d. brand new—any offers?

**MRS. J. PRANCE, East Lodge, Church Road, Bengeo, Hertford.**

### FOR SALE

**STANDARD SUPER 10**, November 1956, fawn, with Standrive automatic clutch, two-pedal control, may be operated by either foot. Carefully maintained and in very good condition. £275 or near offer.

**E. E. DOHERTY, Teacher at Carlson House School, 8 Hollymount, Hagley Road, Birmingham 16.**

### CASTLEFORD & DISTRICT SPASTICS' COMMITTEE—(Continued from page 15)

#### Parents

Nearly two years ago we formed a Parents' Association. The idea being for them to meet occasionally for mutual discussion and a little social life, so often denied these parents. Perhaps this is not an unqualified success but it has achieved its purpose in awakening the sympathies of each to the other and developing friendship amongst them. An annual outing just for the mothers is appreciated too.

#### A Good Future

Our youngsters are no longer cast on the scrap heap. As far as possible each one is investigated fully with a view to finding out what form, if any, of education, training or treatment he can profit by. If the condition cannot be improved *there is still the mother to be considered, and the committee always has this in mind.* The greatest bar to progress is still the shortage of suitable homes for the children. More of our local children could be suitably and profitably placed if there were more of these. Nevertheless

the committee knows that the work started in 1955 has been successful and we foresee an equally successful future.

#### ONE PARENT TO ANOTHER

(continued from page 18)

normal, and is really still very much a part of them even though they are handicapped.

How very true it is that this problem of ours isn't appreciated—but how can it be? Most of the things we have to do or are not able to do because of our handicapped children defy imagination; and after all, how many of us appreciated the problem of these parents before we stood in their shoes? The children are ours—our responsibility and our care—and must remain so. They bring much love—even much happiness and joy—and that we find ourselves with these children at this present time makes us just that much more fortunate than the thousands who have gone before us, because we have so much more help becoming available to us.

# PROFESSIONAL & PARENT CO-OPERATION

Feature of N.S.S. Conference at Bristol

PARENTS would have been interested to see and hear the depth at which the problems of their children were discussed at the Conference on Management of Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy in Children and Adults, which took place at Wills Hall, Bristol in September.

It would have been comforting for them to realise that conferences such as this, which sound so abstract in title and removed from the day to day handling of the individual child, could get so much to grips with the every day problem.

Some of the papers were very technical and covered a background interesting mainly to doctors working in research, neurology or specialised paediatrics. Specialists from many European countries and from the United States of America attended, and many had the opportunity of presenting their own papers.

On the whole, however, there was evidence at all levels that doctors, psychologists, teachers, therapists and social workers alike are interested in what happens to the child within his home and in his day to day life at school and are generally looking toward what the child's life will be when he reaches more mature years.

## Exchange of Information

There is also a thirst for information: for instance, the doctor is interested to know the results and observations from work by the psychologist; the psychologist is interested to know something of the home environment and family problem from the social worker; the social worker gains much from hearing the views of doctors, psychologists, etc.

## Parents' Experience Valued

The conference made it very apparent that in all specialist fields the workers place great value on the view of the parents and regarded the parents' handling of the child and the child's acceptance within the family as one of the most important factors in the development and benefit of the child. It was remarked again and again that, at whatever stage the specialist might be dealing with the child, without the co-operation of the parents nothing can be achieved.

It was particularly stressed that the parents handling of the child in the first years of life is very important and doctors and psychologists as well as other disciplines feel that if parents can be relaxed during the early years of the

child's life, he has a better opportunity when he reaches school and training age. A plea was made for more co-operation from trained staff in helping parents to handle the child and gain a full acceptance of his deeds before he is old enough to go outside for training.

## Progress in Treatment and in the Public Attitude

It was heartening to see developments in the investigation of causes which may one day lead to prevention; to see how far we have come in the medical and educational assessment of brain-injured children, and to have demonstrated how far physiotherapy can help in the alleviation of the physical state.

Dr. Ronald MacKeith, D.M., F.R.C.P., told the conference that it was no longer disreputable to have a spastic child.

He said, "In the last ten years there has been an enormous change in the public attitude towards spastic children and we can only hope we shall see a similar change of feeling about epilepsy and mental deficiency."

Papers from this conference can be obtained from the "Cerebral Palsy Bulletin", 29 Hadlow Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

Next month the paper given at the conference by Miss E. F. Townsend, Senior Social Worker, will be printed. It is entitled, *Emotional Aspects of Cerebral Palsied Adolescents within their Family and Society*.

## THE RIGHT HELP FROM LOCAL GROUPS

by Miss E. F. Townsend, Senior Social Worker

LOCAL Parents' Groups are energetic bodies. Parents are anxious to help their own and other similarly handicapped children; other people not directly involved are sympathetic and ready to give their time to a useful and positive community activity.

We know that everyone offers his or her time from good motive. But in many cases the energy of the untrained worker is directed into wrong channels.

Families with handicapped children have several needs, some of which can only be dealt with professionally: for instance medical diagnosis and treatment, educational assessment, subsequent schooling and training, help with the deeper emotional and social problems raised by certain forms of handicap. The Society is trying to make available a full service

in these professional fields in co-operation with statutory and local authorities.

There are other fields of need, ones in which the untrained worker can give tremendous help. Sometimes these needs seem so simple that those wishing to do voluntary work feel that in performing these mundane services they are not helping enough. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

As professional workers we know that families suffer a great isolation in bearing what is sometimes a great physical and emotional burden. They feel they are misunderstood or even rejected by the community.

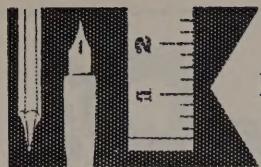
Good neighbourliness and loving help at a simple level can lift them from this isolation.

**I feel sure that help with the shop-**

**ping, occasional baby-sitting, or someone just coming in for a cup of tea in the afternoon can be of greater benefit to the mother of a severely handicapped child than all the professional advice available.**

This is the sort of help which it is impossible for us to give, but which is so readily available through local Groups, if they could only realise its great and deep value.

If the work of the local Groups could be concentrated toward neighbourly help, physical and emotional relief within the family, and on providing a closer contact between the professional worker and the family, we would move towards a true unity of all services to the mutual benefit of parents and handicapped children.



## EMPLOYMENT CORNER

We are pleased to be able to report a bumper crop of busy bees this month.

**David Armstrong**, of **Leeds**, is working as a junior clerk in an engineering firm.

**Katharine Bebb**, of **Carlisle**, who attended our assessment course at Irton Hall, has also started in the clerical department of a firm of engineers.

**Peter Beckett**, of **Edgeware**, is busy as a messenger with a West End firm.

**Ronald Blowes**, of **Liverpool**, has been accepted for training at Enham Alamein.

**Louie Carroll**, of **London**, is now a telephonist at Uxbridge.

**William Dixon**, of **Peckham**, has obtained employment in a local engineering works.

**Anthony Evans**, of **Worcester**, after completing his training at Sherrards, is working as a hand-press operator in the engineering line.

**Barbara Hunt**, of **Shoreham**, who was also trained at Sherrards, is an operator in a firm making metal components.

**Bryan Marsh**, from **Chesterfield**, is busy in the clerical department of a motor salesroom.

**Anthony Pottinger**, of **Notts**, has found employment in a local garage.

**Eveline Rhodes**, of **Selsey**, who recently attended the course in Devon, is now working in the inspection department of a bag factory.

**David Tenant**, of **Aberdovey**, is employed in the gardens of a North Wales hospital.

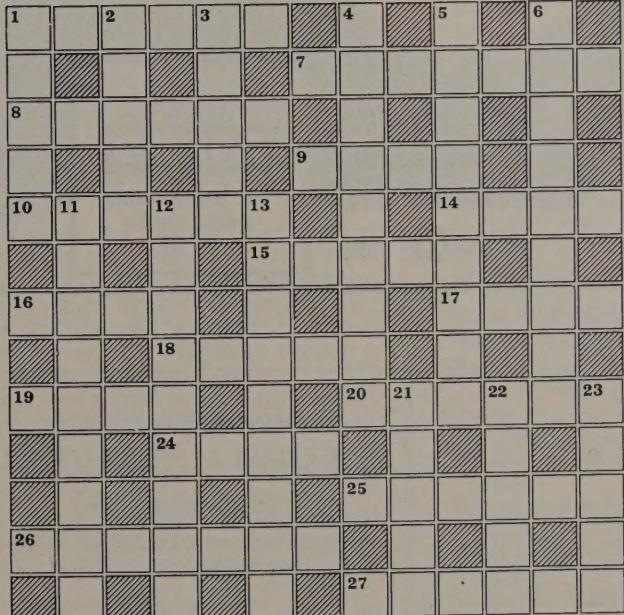
**William Thompson**, of **Huyton**, who also came on one of our assessment courses, has now found work as a gardener with the local U.D.C.

**Keith Angell**, from **Wilts**, **Cornelius Curley**, from **Northants**, and **Stella Hewitt**, from **St. Albans**, are all happily engaged in making costume jewellery for our homework scheme.

**Michael Knox**, of **Stockton-on-Tees**, **Timothy Jupp**, of **Ipswich**, **Ann Linton**, from **Ramsgate**, and **Stella Nailor**, from **Newbury**, are taking a course in Tickopres training.

**Veronica Fleming**, of **Bournemouth**, **Albert Kober**, of **Newcastle upon Tyne**, and **Susan Marks**, of **Cheshire**, have commenced their training at Sherrards Training Centre.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 19



### ACROSS

1. If Kipling's it's probably barrack-room. 6.
7. "Just for a . . . of 8 he left us,  
Just for a 25 to stick in his coat." Browning. 7.

### DOWN

1. One town completely of Arabs. 5.
2. Still they are catchy tunes. 5.
3. Potentate sounds a little insignificant. 5.
4. Sticklers who mislaid their velvet gloves? 9.
5. Shakespeare calls its uses sweet. 9.
6. Rather more obstinate than the Donkey Serenade maybe. 4, 5.
11. He thinks Sofia capital. 9.
12. All that lesser lights can possibly achieve. 9.
13. Infernal associate of fire—and treacle. 9.
21. Principal area in New England! 5.
22. Respond to treatment one way or other. 6.
23. Home to the exiles in "As You Like It". 5.

## Group Alterations

### New Officials:

#### BISHOP'S STORTFORD & DISTRICT GROUP, Herts Spastics Society

Hon. Treasurer:

A. W. SAVAGE, ESQ.,  
43 Warwick Road,  
Bishop's Stortford,  
Herts.

#### EPPING FOREST & DISTRICT BRANCH

Chairman:

L. IRVING, ESQ.,  
The Lodge,  
Debden Green,  
Loughton, Essex.

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. E. M. WOODWARD,  
68 Queen's Road,  
Loughton, Essex.

#### MANCHESTER & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIETY

Chairman:

A. SHAUGHNESSY, ESQ.,  
52 Norfolk Avenue,  
Denton.  
Tel.: DENton 3554 and HYDe 3434.

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. J. ARMSTRONG,  
3 Park Road,  
Gatley, Cheshire.  
Tel.: GATley 6567.

#### NORTH SURREY GROUP

Chairman:

E. DOVE, ESQ.,  
2 Wood Lodge,  
Woodfield Lane,  
Ashtead, Surrey.

#### PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT

Chairman:

MRS. D. M. LILLEY.  
Tel.: Peterborough 71871.

#### PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT SPASTICS ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary:

MRS. ETHEL STEPHENSON,  
17 Wentcliffe Road,  
Ferrybridge,  
Knottingley.  
Tel.: KNOttingley 2530.

#### STOCKPORT EAST CHESHIRE AND HIGH PEAK SPASTICS SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary:

E. SLACK, ESQ.,  
41 Naseby Road,  
Redish, Stockport.

#### Change of Address:

#### LEEDS & DISTRICT SPASTICS SOCIETY

Mr. S. Minson, Secretary of the above group has resigned; please send all correspondence to the Treasurer until further notice.

J. W. CROSBY, ESQ.,  
40 Green Hill Drive,  
Bramley,  
Leeds, 13.

#### WELWYN GARDEN CITY & DISTRICT GROUP

Miss A. Crompton, Hon. Secretary of the above group has resigned; please send all

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correspondence to the Chairman until further notice.

R. C. CARTER, ESQ.,  
56 Woodhall Lane,  
Welwyn Garden City.

President:

E. BURRINGTON, ESQ.,  
62 Attimore Road,  
Welwyn Garden City.

#### Change of title:

The Northampton & County Branch of The National Spastics Society has changed its title to:

**THE NORTHAMPTON & COUNTY SPASTICS SOCIETY**

**JOHN BUNDOCK**  
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# N.S.S. Regions

## Arrangement of the Groups

### Chief Regional Officer

(A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park Crescent, London W.1)

### Eastern Region

(Harry G. Knight, 58 Park Road, Peterborough, Northants. Tel: Peterborough 67045)

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society

Corby and District Spastics Society

Derby and District Branch of NSS

Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Spastics Society

Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society

Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society

Lincoln Branch

Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group

Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association

Northampton and County Spastics Society

Nottingham Friends of Spastics Group (Sub-Committee of Nottingham District Cripples Guild)

Peterborough and District Spastics Group

Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society

Stamford and District Branch of NSS

### Midland Region

(Officer to be appointed in 1961)

Cannock Chase Spastic Association

Coventry and District Spastics Society

Dudley and District Spastic Group

Ludlow and District Spastics Group

North Staffordshire Spastic Association

Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group

Stafford and District Spastic Association

Worcester and District Branch of NSS

### North Eastern Region

(Roland J. F. Whyte, N.S.S. Trevelyan Chambers, 7 Boar Lane, Leeds 1. Tel: Leeds 33933)

Barnsley and District Association of the NSS

Bradford and District Branch of the NSS

Castleford and District Spastics Committee

Darlington and District Spastics Society

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society

Goole and District Spastics Association

Halifax and District Group of the NSS

Huddersfield and District Spastics Society

Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics Society in Hull and District

Leeds and District Spastics Society

Pontefract and District Spastics Association

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society

Sheffield and District Spastics Society

Sunderland and District Spastics Society

Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics

York and District Spastic Group

### North Western Region

(Thos. H. Keighley, 20 Brazennose Street, Manchester. Tel: BLACKfriars 6130)

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society  
Blackburn and District Spastics Group  
Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group  
Bollington, Macclesfield & District Group  
Bolton and District Group of the NSS  
Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group

Chester and District Spastics Association  
Crewe and District Spastics Society  
Crosby and District Spastics Society  
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society

Manchester and District Spastics Society  
Oldham and District Spastic Society

Preston and District Spastic Group  
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society

Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society

Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society

Urmston and District Group of the NSS  
Warrington Group for the Welfare of Spastics

Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group

### Northern Home Counties Region

(Robert C. Lemarie, 32 High Street, Watford. Tel: Watford 41565)

Bedford and District Branch of NSS

Bishop's Stortford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society

Clacton and District Group of the NSS  
Colchester and District Group of the NSS

East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society

East London Spastic Society

Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS  
Essex Group of the NSS

Harlow and District Branch

Hatfield Group and District Spastics Society

Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics

Ilford, Romford and District Spastics Association

Luton and District Spastics Group

Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group

North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics

North-West London Group of the NSS

Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society

Reading and District Spastics Welfare Society

Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society.

Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society

South-West Middlesex Group of the NSS

St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
Wycombe and District Spastics Society

### South-Eastern Region

(J. J. Welch, 55 London Road, Horsham, Surrey)

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastic Society

Brighton, Hove and District Branch of the NSS

Central Surrey Group of the NSS  
Croydon and District Branch of the NSS

East Sussex Group (Hastings and District)  
Folkestone and District Branch of NSS

Isle of Wight Spastics Society  
Maidstone Area Group of the NSS

Medway Towns Branch of NSS  
North Hants and West Surrey Group

North Surrey Group of the NSS  
North-West Kent Spastics Group

North-West Surrey Group of the NSS  
Portsmouth and District Spastics Society

Southampton and District Spastics Association

South-East London Group of the NSS  
South-East Surrey Group of the NSS

South London Group of the NSS  
South-West London and District Group of the NSS

South-West Surrey Group of the NSS  
Thanet Group of the NSS

Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group

West Kent Spastics Society—Incorporating Bromley and District Spastics Group

### Welsh Region (including Mon.)

(Brian Kingsley-Davies, Delfryn, Clevedon Avenue, Sully, Glam. Tel: Sully 384)

Cardiff and District Spastic Association  
Colwyn Bay and District Branch of the NSS

Conway and District Branch of NSS  
Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society

Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society

Pontypridd and District Branch of the NSS  
Swansea and District Spastic Association

### Western Region

(The Secretary, St. John House, Park Street, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: Taunton 81678)

Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association

Bristol Spastics Association

Cheltenham Spastics Aid Association

Exeter and District Spastics Society

Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association

Swindon and District Spastic Society

Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

Jersey Branch of the NSS, Channel Islands



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coastline

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Sea Breeze

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Silloth or Maryport

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Children up to 15 years  
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